Wednesday, January 21, 2009 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 44 P18

Good morning, America

From sea to shining sea

A SEA OF FACES—UNPRECEdented in their millions, collectively representing an individual resolve to see and be seen making history—were,

EDITORIAL

literally upturned when Barack Obama raised his hand and enunciated the presidential oath of office. They were from all walks of life, of different races, individually committed to a demonstration of national solidarity and collectively comprising a celebration of democracy.

Obama himself set the tone for the national reconsecration to democracy every inaugural, but especially his inaugural, represents by stating, "It's not about me. It's about us," in his message about his inauguration. This shows him firmly in lock-step with the millions present to witness his swearing-in, and who viewed it on TV around the world.

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA A13

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



'JOYOUS DAYBREAK' The phrase comes from Martin Luther King's iconic "I Have a Dream" speech that capped the legendary freedom fighter's march on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963. A dream that 46 years later finds fulfillment in the swearing-in on Tuesday of Barack Hussein Obama as the first black president of the United States of America. AP

Obama strides into history

WASHINGTON—BARACK Obama became the 44th US president Tuesday, shattering American racial barriers as the first black leader of a nation he promised to free from the grip of profound economic troubles and steer away from wars in two distant lands.

In his inaugural address before a record two million people from all over the United States, Obama told the world that America was "ready to lead once more."

"Know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more," he said.

Referring to "the faith and determination of the American people," Obama also said: "This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed—why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath."

Obama vowed a "prudent" use of US power, leading with the "justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint."

The 47-year-old Obama assumed power over a country longing for change after former President George W. Bush's eight divisive years in the White House, an era that witnessed the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, the beginning of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and an economic collapse not seen since the 1930s Great Depression.

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America—they will be met," Obama said in his first address to the nation as its new leader.

Climaxing the unlikeliest of journeys, the son of a black Kenyan father and a white mother from Kansas took the oath of office just after noon (1 a.m., Wednesday in Manila) on the steps of the US Capitol, his hand placed on a Bible used by Abraham Lincoln at his first inauguration in 1861.

Chief Justice John Roberts swore in Obama, helping him through a slight

GOOD MORNING AMERICA A16

This is for you, Rosa Parks: Students take bus to capital

ATLANTA—EAGER TO WITNESS HISTORY in the making, students from Morehouse College in Atlanta rode buses to Washington for Tuesday's inauguration of Barack Obama as president of the United States.

For African-Americans in general and Morehouse students in particular, the moment is a treasured [illegible].

Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. graduated from Morehouse, a college for black American men that places emphasis on leadership and aims to give students a sense of moral and civic responsibility.

The act of riding a bus to push for change has played a significant role in black American history.

Some students said they had been brought up to see struggle and celebra-

THIS IS A18

Yuchengcos sell preneed firm; clients object

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YUCHENGCO FAMILY SOLD FOR ₱250 million their preneed unit Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) to a group led by Noel Oñate, an investment banker and Asian Spirit Airlines founder.

Awash in cash from the sale last year of the airline (now called Zest Air), Oñate yesterday announced his purchase of all the shares of the Yuchengcos' GPL Holdings in Pacific Plans.

The People Enabling Parents (PEP) Coalition, a group of clients of ailing preneed plan companies, has vowed to block the Yuchengcos' sale of the company.

The new group committed to infuse

YUCHENGCOS A6

US offers help to hunt down kidnappers of Red Cross workers

By Inquirer Staff

THE UNITED STATES YESTERDAY offered to help Philippine authorities hunt down the abductors of three members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Sulu.

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney condemned the kidnapping, saying it was "unacceptable anywhere, anytime."

"If there's any information we have or any way that we can provide anything that leads to their safe return, we stand ready to do that," Kenney told reporters at the vin d'honneur hosted by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

"These are international Red Cross workers. They should be returned safely now. Those who captured them should be brought to justice and held responsible. Period."

Swiss national Andreas Notter, Italian Eugenio Vagni and Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba were abducted last week outside the provincial jail in Jolo by suspected members of the notorious Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang.

A small contingent of US troops is in Western Mindanao, training local forces in hunting down the Abu Sayyaf. The American soldiers are barred from taking part in combat operations.

Kenney said the latest kidnapping did not necessarily deal a blow to the Philippine government's effort to address the problem in Mindanao, including the bigger issue of terrorism.

US OFFERS A18

Gonzalez tells NBI to go easy on Marcelino

By Christian V. Esguerra and Tarra Quismundo

MARINE MAJ. FERDINAND MARCELINO yesterday found an unlikely ally in Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez in the face of the National Bureau of Investigation's recommendation to charge him with obstruction of justice.

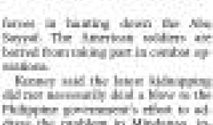
Gonzalez said he saw no reason for the NBI to pursue the case against Marcelino, which stemmed from his refusal to cooperate in the agency's investigation of the alleged bribery of Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutors for the freedom of the so-called Alabang Boys.

"I don't think there was really an obstruction of justice," Gonzalez told reporters after the vin d'honneur hosted in Malacañang by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At most, he said, Marcelino's failure to cooperate with the NBI probe could be the subject of an administrative inquiry within the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) to which he is detailed.

Rejecting the NBI demand that he be

GONZALEZ A6



'Chismis,' videoke good stress-busters, says doctor

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—EVER WONDER WHY "chismis" (gossip) and videoke are so popular among Filipinos?

They serve as the most common stress busters, according to Dr. Jane Fagsikan-Lopez, a mental health expert.

CHISMIS A13

4 witnesses tag Paule; supplier recants testimony

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

THE MAN ALLEGED TO BE AMONG those who manipulated the ₱728-million fertilizer fund volunteered yesterday to be executed by "firing squad" if it would be proved that he knew any of the persons summoned by the Senate blue ribbon committee to shed light on the scandal.

But witnesses Marissa Aytona, Marilyn Araos, Natalie Castillo and Leonilda Marco-Llamera, among others, all said it was Jaime Paule who had built the elaborate structure for the fund diversion.

The witnesses also claimed to personally know Paule.

Testifying at the Senate inquiry for the first time, Paule denied their claim.

At the resumption of the Senate inquiry into the fund scam, Julie Gregorio, president of Feshan Philippines Inc., sprang a surprise when she said she was recanting her previous testimony.

She said Feshan, the major supplier in the fertilizer project, had only earned over ₱13 million, and not ₱80 million, from the ₱105-million worth of fertilizer

WITNESSES A6

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2

SUERTRES

SIX DIGIT

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN

2 5 10 27 31 37

P3,731,112.00

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

4 5 8 27 32 41

P51,506,478.00

CBCP 'indifferent' on SC chief

Let Puno-for-president drive find its course, says Jaro archbishop

THE SUGGESTION THAT SUPREME COURT Chief Justice Reynato Puno run for President in 2010 should be allowed to "find its course," according to the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

No, thanks

Prudent rebuff

IBP recommends suspension of Gonzalez

Pulse Asia: Chiz is tops in ratings; Loren 2nd



ESCUDERO



LEGARDA



Noli still gives most satisfaction

Citizens' search committee to screen nominees to SC

THE CITIZENS' SEARCH COMMITTEE for the Supreme Court yesterday sought nominations from civil society and academic institutions for the forthcoming vacancies in the high tribunal.

The CSCSC intends to screen such nominations and endorse candidates who are found fit and qualified to the Judicial and Bar Council that is mandated by the Constitution to come up with at least three names for the President to consider.

The committee said its efforts aren't meant to substitute the JBC's own screening process.

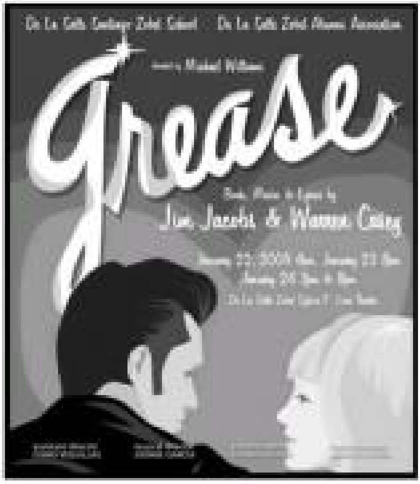
"It is being undertaken by private individuals that have come together to form the CSCSC in order to widen and deepen the search for qualified nominees for the Supreme Court," the group said in a statement.

The CSCSC is composed of retired Justice Hilarion Aquino, Dean Andy Bautista, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, Ambassador Albert del Rosario, Mr. Eddie Go, Ramon Jabole and Professor Solita Monsod.

The Constitution requires the candidate for associate justice to be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least 40 years of age at the time of his/her appointment, must have been a judge of a lower court or engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines for at least 15 years and of proven competence, integrity, probity and independence.

GMA: Peace in Mindanao a personal commitment





Lame-duck president

New peace paradigm



Corrections

The Daily Gospel

Stimulus package raised by P30B

Random drug tests to push thru

It's constitutional

Postpone drug tests

Focus on education

COPW

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

*If you agree or have any comments on the COPW position, **infotext to rtc 0917-5555754***

GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCIES MUST STEP IN AND RESOLVE PUBLIC DOUBTS AND CONFUSION ON LPG AND PUMP PRICE MOVEMENTS

The Consumer & Oil Price Watch (**COPW**) said that consumers nationwide have alternately expressed surprise, disapproval, confusion and complaints regarding the most recent developments in supply and prices of LPG and pump prices of gasoline and diesel.

In a January 12th advertisement that **COPW** published in leading broadsheets, tabloids and selected provincial newspapers, we asked that ***reforms be implemented in our government regulatory agencies so that they can best serve and safeguard the interests of the general public.***

Such as in times like this.

WHAT IS THE REAL SCORE ON LPG? IS THERE REALLY A SHORTAGE?

Since December and into the New Year, consumers particularly housewives have been complaining about the scarcity of LPG. While the major suppliers of LPG, particularly Petron and Shell, have acknowledged the increased consumption of LPG especially during the holiday season, ***they have nonetheless been assuring the public of adequate supply.***

The LPG Marketers Association, through its president Arnel Ty, has admitted that ***retailers have started to increase prices due to the "lack of supply".*** DOE Secretary Angelo Reyes meantime has brushed aside reports of queuing of 30 to 50 delivery trucks in front of Petron and Liquigaz plants as "normal."

In the light of confusing reports on the actual state of supply AND the increase in the prices of LPG where available, ***COPW appeals to the Department of Trade & Industry to investigate the matter.***

Adequate supply of LPG is a basic consumer concern especially among the C, D, & E economic classes. ***The DTI, by authority of RA 7394 or the Consumer Act, must step in and determine whether there is in fact a shortage of LPG and why.***

WHY HAVE PUMP PRICE ROLLBACKS FALLEN SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS?

COPW maintains the position that, based on price movements in the world market, weekly pump price rollbacks of P2.00 during the weeks of January 9th, 13th, 23rd, and 30th could have been implemented - ***a total of P8.00 for the entire month of January.***

While there was no rollback in the week of January 9th, we saw a rollback totaling P1.00 in the week of January 13th - ***still P3.00 short of expectations.***

On January 20th Chevron, Total, and Shell raised prices of gasoline by 50 centavos. On the same day, Chevron, Total, Shell, and Petron rolled back the price of diesel by 50 centavos.

Unless there are more adjustments, by the end of the week of January 23rd we are expecting a rollback of P5.50 for gasoline and P4.50 for diesel.

In this regard, COPW is more than willing to sit down with the Oil Companies to ***compare and reconcile our respective data and computations.***

It will be recalled that Shell Country Manager Edgar Chua had pledged that the oil companies have agreed to "move toward greater transparency by reflecting movements of product prices and foreign exchange once or twice a week in 2009, and not moderated, whether upward or downward" - a promise welcomed by public transport groups, haulers that deliver goods and services, private car owners, and the commuting public.

The DOE and DOJ, as implementors of the safeguard provisions of the Oil Deregulation Law must exercise regulatory functions under Chapter 3, Sections 11(a) & 12(a) which prohibits acts of cartelization and requires oil companies to submit the volume and value of shipments as they arrive to the Secretary of Energy and the DOE-DOJ Task Force so it can determine whether reflected prices are reasonable or not.

IN THE SPIRIT OF TRANSPARENCY & PUBLIC WELFARE, COPW APPEALS TO THE DTI, DOE, & DOJ TO IMMEDIATELY EXERCISE THEIR RESPECTIVE REGULATORY POWERS:

- Publicly disclose the total capacities for LPG of the various suppliers Petron, Shell, Liquigaz, Total, Petronas, & Pryce Gas - including the value and volume of their inventories.
- Request an explanation from the Oil Companies as to why they did not enter into a forward contract for delivery in February when the NYMEX (New York Mercantile Exchange) price dropped to $35.35 on Dec. 24, 2008 and again in January 15, 2009 when the price dropped to $35.40 with February contract expiring on Tuesday, January 20th.
- Immediately release to the public, in the interest of transparency, the long overdue inventory of the Oil Companies to include volume and existing stocks on hand plus the incoming shipments as of January 16th.

Government agencies must act immediately and decisively to dispel fears of inadequate supply and price manipulation.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/

We will appreciate getting feedback from you. Direct Line 844-8785; Fax: 818-6203 • E-mail: copw@i-1.com.ph. Thank you.



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4 witnesses tag Paule; supplier recants testimony



Yuchengcos sell Pacific Plans for ₱250M

Gonzalez tells NBI to go easy on Marcelino; PDEA waits

'Alabang Boys' kin sue PDEA

Firm had authority to cut trees; not so, says SBMA

Multinationals blamed for high dropout rate

Good morning, America; Obama strides i

From page A1

[illegible]

First working day

[illegible]

Security sweep

[illegible]

All-night dancing

[illegible]

Inspirational

[illegible]

GMA to Obama: Welco

WITH THAT GREETING, PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday saluted Barack Obama on the eve of his inauguration as the 44th president of the United States, [illegible]



CLOSER TO HOME Filipino [illegible] message to the American president [illegible] blocked by policemen at Kalaw Street [illegible]

[illegible]

Unprecedented security fo

WASHINGTON—AUTHORITIES took unprecedented security measures in and around Washington for Barack Obama's inauguration as the United States' first black president. [illegible]

Pope prays for Obama 'wisdom, strength'

VATICAN CITY—POPE BENEDICT XVI gave Barack Obama his blessing and prayed for his "unfailing wisdom and strength" in a telegram sent Tuesday before the US presidential inauguration. [illegible] *AP*



REMEMBER ROSA PARKS Students from Morehouse College, a well-known college for black men in Atlanta, Georgia, are headed to the US capital to witness the swearing in of the first black president.

This is for you, Rosa Parks: Students take bus to capital

From page A1

[illegible]

Atmosphere

[illegible]

Million Man March

[illegible]

Reuters

New first lady: Style and substance



THE FUTURE Michelle Obama leaves the stage after addressing the audience during the "Kids' Inaugural: We are the Future" concert in Washington on the eve of the inauguration.

WASHINGTON—MICHELLE Obama wore a sparkling gold sheath dress with matching coat by Cuban-born American designer Isabel Toledo on the day her husband was inaugurated as president. [illegible]

Simply 'Michelle'

[illegible]

AFP, AP

nto history

Acute poignancy

ome to world stage



Tribute to Charice

or Barack's inauguration

Bush leaves note for successor

FAST FACTS

Civil rights, constitutional law

Half-brothers, sisters

Most liberal senator

No body-double role for 'Indon Obama'; I don't want to get shot

INQUIRER

OPINION

From sea to shining sea

Continued from page 1

EDITORIAL

[illegible]



SBMA contract allows Korean firm to kill trees

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

History train

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

How long will Obama honeymoon endure?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Our friend Barack

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Two different images or one and the same?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Obama's family

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

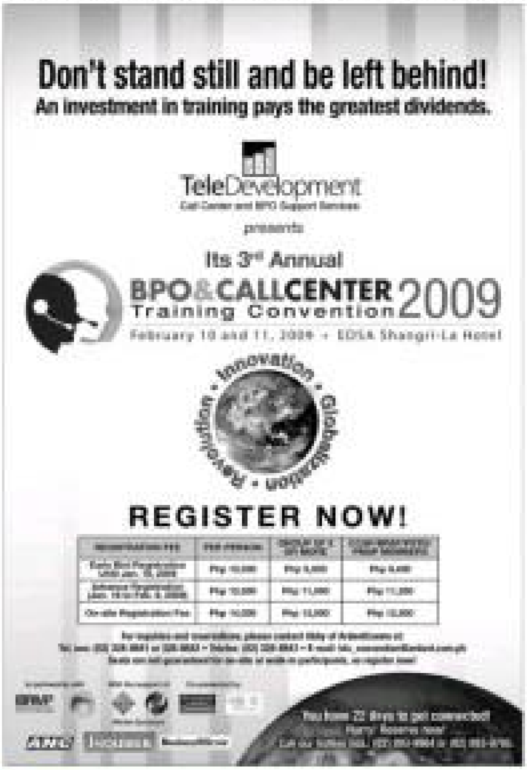


Resist RP's army of 300 for brighter future for Filipinos

LETTERS

Arab-Israeli conflict: not everything is as it appears

Holidays enough excuse for delayed GSIS pensions?



Bitter truth about greed



Search operations will continue, says Yano



THE MISSION GOES ON

US offers help to hunt down kidnappers

Kidnappers' demand

Guarded statement

'Chismis,' videoke ...

Public challenge

Pinoys and videoke

Depression

Risk factors

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Languages of faith alive in rituals in Pampanga

'There is certainly much more to the 'karakdal' and the 'libad bangka' than revelry alone. It may be the revelry that gives life to the rituals; but it is faith that gives meaning to these'



Book on faith

Where is God?

Hunger survivor embarks on feeding program

Mass feeding

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Financial crisis stalls $1.7B in mining projects

DAVAO CITY—THE GLOBAL financial crisis and other factors have stalled the development of key mining projects in Southern Mindanao, a ranking government official said Monday.

> 'If they will start exploring this year, actual mining operations will proceed eight years after...'



GMA tells new peace panel to resume talks with MILF

Baguio monitors clubs for illegal drugs

Bureau of Food and Drugs
Department of Health

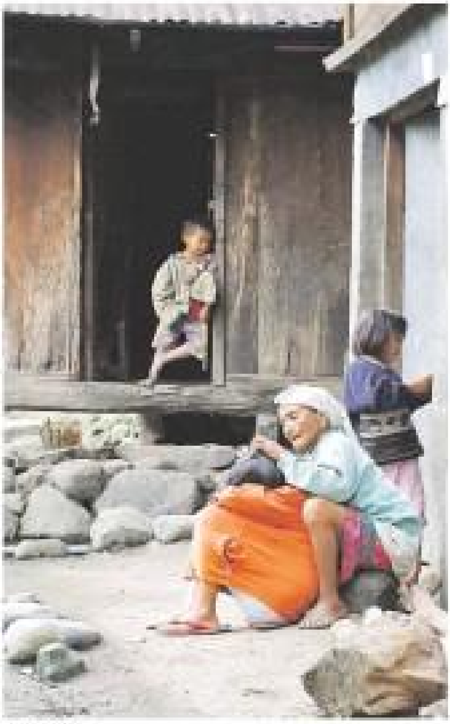
BFAD ADVISORY
No. 2009-____

Immediate Recall of Selected Brands of Peanut Butter and Peanut Butter and Peanut Paste- Containing Products from the United States of America

Stock Numbers	Descriptions	Pack Size Affected
551000	Creamy Stabilized Peanut Butter	6 oz / 5 lb
551006	Crunchy Stabilized Peanut Butter	6 oz / 5 lb
551020	Creamy Stabilized Peanut Butter	35 lb
551022	Natural Course Peanut Paste	35 lb
551025	Old Fashioned Creamy Peanut Butter with 1% Salt	35 lb
551035	Crunchy Natural Peanut Butter	35 lb
551040	Creamy Natural Peanut Butter	35 lb
551050	Creamy Stabilized Peanut Butter	50 lb
551050-D	Dark Creamy Stabilized Peanut Butter	50 lb
551051	Creamy Stabilized Peanut Butter with Monodiglyceride	50 lb
551053	Crunchy Stabilized Peanut Butter	50 lb
551072	Peanut Butter Variegate	45 lb

Group pins hope on Obama for bases' cleanup

UN agency starts aid to Mindanao flood victims



TYPICAL DAY

Air Force joins search for 7 who are missing at sea

Baguio execs, traders deal with threats, pranks



4 vessels held for poaching near whale site



Ateneo marks 150th year with Presidents' Forum

Automation to churn out poll results in 3 days

By Kristine B. Alave

Three days

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A plus METRO

Did you know

Break for Manila, QC traders



4 rob gang suspects die in shootout with cops after car chase

2 other suspects escaped, cops say

FOUR SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF A ROBBERY SYNDICATE were gunned down early Tuesday after they allegedly shot it out with policemen after leading them on a high-speed car chase from Cainta to Antipolo City in Rizal province.

QC expects 10,000 new businesses

Hear Mass with family, Pasig policemen told

4 fires hit Manila, QC; 3 dead, 3 injured



MetroBriefs

Fire victims need help

Robbery in Las Piñas

Woman killed in Tondo

Manila eyes feeding program for seniors

Camanava cops to get new guns



BIRDWATCHING



Activists vent their rage on Bush

Worldwide, well-wishers mobilize for inauguration

Plan to close Guantanamo angers families



The WORLD

Israel to pull out before Obama inaugural

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP—ISRAEL PLANNED TO complete a troop pullout from Gaza before Barack Obama's inauguration on Tuesday, Israeli political sources said, in what analysts saw as an effort to avoid any tension with the new US president.

Incendiary shell does grave harm to Gazans



Resistance by Hamas fighters was light

Oil dips below $33 after Russia-Ukraine deal

WorldBriefs

Spousal rapist commits suicide

2 warplanes crash; 3 pilots dead

US plane suffered previous malfunction

Boy dies from bird flu in China

2 fishermen saved after 25 days at sea



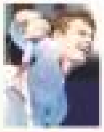
Women less able to suppress hunger

WHAT'S INSIDE



Aces, Texters eye 3-1 leads /A26

SPORTS



Murray quickly dispatches foe /A27



Tiu, Hapee reach semis

Blue-chip guard hits crucial free throws, flaunts hoop IQ









Navy's Pabila zeroes in on third gold; Fil-Aussie shines

Aces, Texters eye 3-1 leads

Beermen to field Washington



Last two minutes

HEART, SOUL, SPORTS



2nd Villar Cup fires off with Panagbenga leg



SPORTSWATCH

Coach E basketball classes open this week

R&A Rules School begins at Alabang CC

Roligon Anniversary Derby dangles P1.2M

70 matches on tap in SJC 5-cocker today

Pacman-Hatton fight a go

Tiu, Hapee reach semis

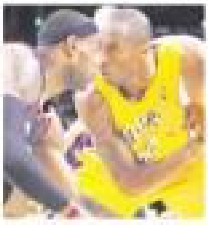
WORLD SPORTS

Kaka rejects City offer, stays at Milan

Ali salutes Obama

Armstrong near the back

Kobe leads Lakers past Cavs



Murray quickly dispatches foe

Australian Open action heats up



Juvic a marked man in TCC golf



PAGUIRIGAN

Cojuangco recalls cockfighting days

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



La Salle golfers rout Ateneo

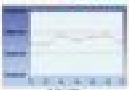
Raymundo rules clubs tilt qualifier

So draws again, keeps 2nd spot

BUSINESS

Economic team woos foreign investors

Currencies



Stock Market

Stocks close lower



Highlights minimal impact of crisis on RP

THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC TEAM HAS EMBARKED ON A road show in Tokyo, Japan, to convince foreign investors that the Philippines has become a favorable business location despite the global economic crisis.

ECONOMIC TEAM B7

RP growth seen slowing to 2.8% this year

ECONOMIC GROWTH B7

Meralco shakeup looms

Biz Buzz

By the staff

Bad blood forgotten

PBCom tug-of-war

Reconciled







PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

SMC expands energy portfolio, plans to buy Bataan plant

SM bags awards



Meralco in hot water over trade violations

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has penalized the Lopez-controlled Manila Electric Co. over its failure to promptly disclose the cancellation of shares held by the Land Bank of the Philippines, as well as the legal dispute that erupted with the state-owned lender.

The PSE did not specify the penalty amount it imposed on Meralco for violating the revised disclosure rules.

This came after the bourse allowed the trading of Meralco shares to resume yesterday. Share price was unchanged at P59.50 from the closing price on Dec. 16, 2008, the day before it was suspended from trading.

Share price opened at P61, and hit a high of P62, before it succumbed to profit-taking at the end of the day.

In justifying the penalty slapped on Meralco, PSE head of disclosure Roy Malabanan said Meralco did not promptly disclose the cancellation of the disputed 42 million shares—equivalent to about 3.8 percent of the utility's total outstanding stock.

Meralco cancelled the shares in compliance to an order from the Department of Agrarian Reform. The agency ordered Meralco to transfer the shares from Landbank to agrarian reform claimants.

The Landbank has argued that the order had already been reversed by the new DAR adjudicator.

The disputed shares were supposed to be sold by Landbank as part of a government block—equivalent to 33 percent of total Meralco shares—to Global 5000 Investment.

Crosswind beefs up Isuzu's image





Ford ends a guessing game

ON THE ROAD





MAZDA2

Jaguar records annual sales boost in 2008

Thousands crowd Detroit auto show's public opening



Car care for less



Workers seen less likely to seek wage hikes in '09

Today, tax subsidies, tomorrow, exemption

Economic team ...

Economic growth seen slowing ...



MOTORING

Editor: Cesar D. Mangawang

Carmakers in RP 'braving 2009'

By Tessa R. Salazar

Contributor

IF THE SIGNS OF THE ECOnomic crunch have arrived in the Philippines, then they aren't knocking at the gates of the moneyed. Well, not yet, anyway. Proof is that the luxury segment of the auto industry has been witness to some prominent product launches.

CATS Motors unveiled last week the Mercedes-Benz compact SUV called the GLK Class, adding to a growing list of luxury SUVs in the country today.

Then, also last week, BMW in the Philippines made a transformation of sorts, relaunching itself as Asian Carmakers (ACC) as it concluded its first press conference.

To top these all, Lexus opened its Manila showroom at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. [illegible]

Lexus Manila Inc. President Daniel Isla calls it the country's "most luxurious showroom." [illegible]

[illegible]



ANG



PILA



RODRIGUEZ

Braving interest

[illegible]

What customers want

[illegible]

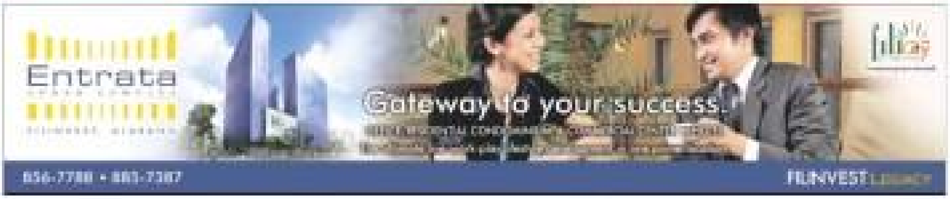
Still on the road

[illegible]



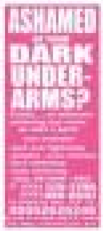
LIFESTYLE Parenting





How to protect your kid from porn, other cyber monsters



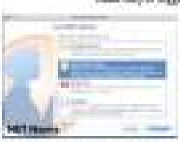


Who's to save your kids from the Big Bad Net?

[illegible]

Block at the source

[illegible]

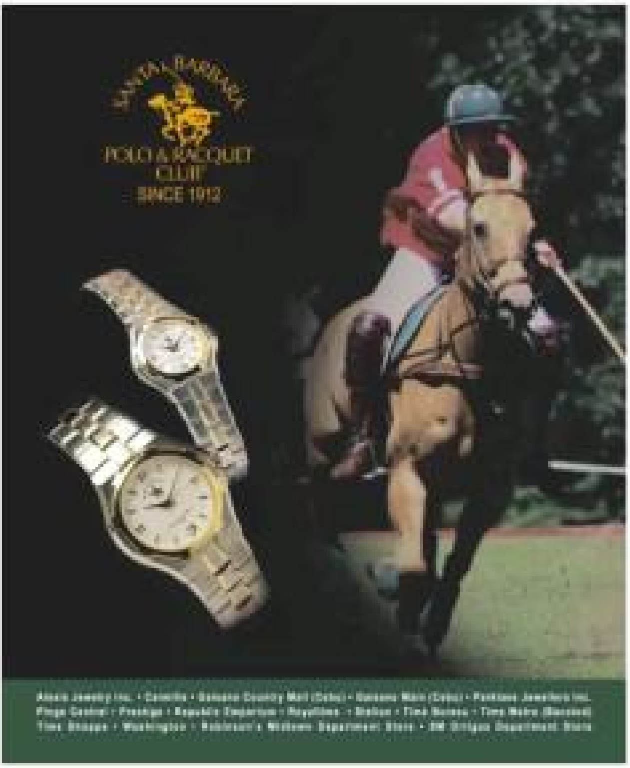


[illegible]

You may already have it

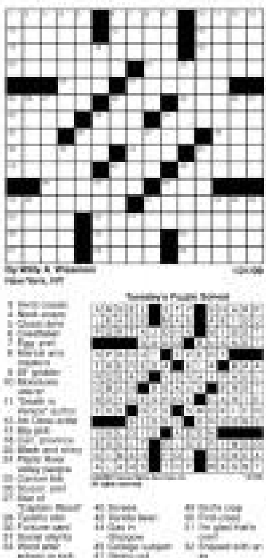
[illegible]







DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

		5	4	6	7			
			9			3		
1		6					5	
3	8				6			5
	6						8	
4	7	9						3
8	1		6				2	
2				3	4	6		
			1	5				

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

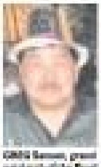
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	3	5	1	7	2	6	4	9
4	7	6	8	3	9	1	2	5
1	9	2	6	4	5	8	7	3
3	5	8	7	6	1	4	9	2
6	1	9	5	2	4	3	8	7
2	4	7	9	8	3	5	1	6
5	8	1	3	9	7	2	6	4
9	2	3	4	1	6	7	5	8
7	6	4	2	5	8	9	3	1



















Married businessman spends 4 days in Boracay with his mistress

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache



Friday's Resorts

Love affair

The Pen's New Year's Ball







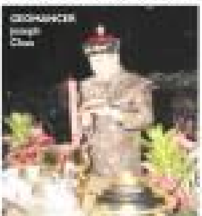








Lucky three-night package for Chinese new year





LifeStyle Home Entertaining

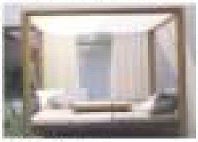


Furniture place features designs by top Italian designer











Lito Zulueta & Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT



GIBNEE, Gabby and Samantha Concepcion

IN THIS ISSUE



GAWAD TANGLAW AWARDEE Columnist Emily Ann Carvajal ("Dollywood") and son RC Mendoza host "RC/DC Chikahan(s)" 6:30-7:30 p.m. daily on Ensure myTV (via satellite). Carvajal has just been named Best Entertainment Columnist by Gawad Tanglaw. Story on page D5.

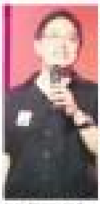
After only five months, CEO quits new TV5

By Marinel R. Cruz

A TOP EXECUTIVE OF TV5 HAS RESIGNED only five months after the launch of the newly rebranded network.

The resignation of Christopher Sy as chief executive officer (CEO) of MPB Primedia Inc. was confirmed through a statement sent by the company on Monday. The statement did not reveal the reason for Sy's decision.

It merely said Sy would "remain with the company ... on a consultancy basis."



CHRISTOPHER Sy: From CEO to consultant.

An industry source said "management style" differences with the network's Malaysian investors was among the reasons that Sy resigned after a meeting on Monday.

MPB Primedia Inc., local subsidiary of the Malaysian conglomerate Media Prima Berhad, entered into a long-term block airtime agreement early last year with ABC 5 head Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco. ABC5 officially became TV5 in August.

Very proud

The statement quoted Sy as saying, "I am very proud of TV5. [Since] our first week of operations, TV5 has been ranked No. 3 in ... ratings. There [has also been] steady increase in all-day viewership, and its morning belt is consistently at double-digit share levels. I am very fortunate and thankful for being given the opportunity to be a part of this."

In a phone interview Monday afternoon, ABC 5 managing director Bobby Barreiro said: "MPB Primedia has assured [ABC 5] that Sy's resignation will not in any way affect our agreement. ABC 5 and Primedia will continue to jointly develop the TV5 brand."

No comment

Inquirer Entertainment sought the reactions of Cojuangco and MPB Primedia senior vice president (for brand management) Jasper Evangelista, but they refused to comment. A text message from Evangelista said, "We already have an official statement. I will make sure this is sent to you."

AFTER D4

Makeover to the max

By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment staff

RUSHES

[illegible]

To dub or not

[illegible]

To dub . . . ?

[illegible]

Reasons for breakup

[illegible]

Idol talk

[illegible]



[illegible]

Hell hath no fury

[illegible]

Perfect casting

[illegible]

Reuters

Looking back

[illegible]

AP

Top of the talk shows

[illegible]



PAOLO Conti

[illegible]



JACKIE Vilame, wife of actor-comedian Janjo, with kids (from left) Arah, Nadine and Mika

From page D1

Hindi kami nagpapapansin with how we feel." (Nikki!)

•Karylle Thalili on her relationship with Rob (Jovenian):

"Kasi, pinagaw-kasin dagi sa ito, hindi ilang mo sa yan. Gusto sa ito ayaw dito?" (Not in all cases, as far as we know!)

•Echos Mae on Pa-la Rander:

"He took advantage of my kindness and generosity. [illegible] ... just starting a career here in the Philippines ... at hindi ako nagpapapansin hindi [illegible]. How many times he asked [illegible] ..., yet my problems, hindi yung [illegible] ... ay [illegible] at hindi [illegible] ... to [illegible], it was [illegible] often." (Fringe [illegible]!)

•Pala Rander on Echos Mae:

"Wow ... [illegible] ..." (Ah, eh..)

•Ango Mano and Jackie Montano on their planned church wedding:

Ango: "Ikaw ang ah-... [illegible] ... (Sigh!)

Jackie: "Gabi ko sa [illegible] ... budget ... (Right.)

•Gabby Concepcion on daughter KC, who surprised him by attending the 1st birthday of his youngest, Samantha:

"I can never have enough of (KC). Parang 24 years old pa rin. She's still my little baby ..." (Aww.)

•Gabby on greeting Sharon during her birthday concert:

"I got emotional. We had our happy moments together. [illegible] ... those beautiful days. It's still beautiful up to now ... I'm just sharing my life with her ... to see our respective lives right now." (Awwww.)

•Gabby's wishes:

"I hope we can all get together, even our families ... (and) for the fans, I hope we

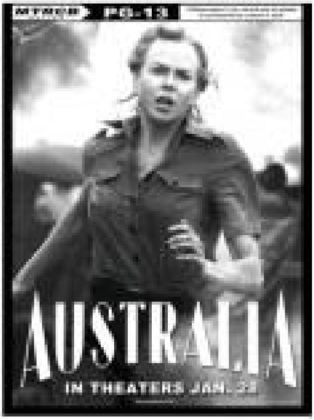


can do a movie together." (Hmmmm.)

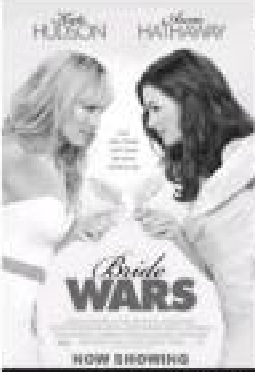
•Jericho Rosales on getting to know Kaylie:

"Gusto ko talaga [illegible] ... (Good answer.)

(Hurrah, The Buzz!)









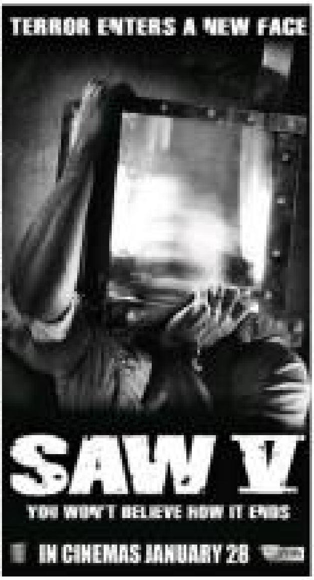
After only five months, CEO quits new TV5

Complaint









At the Cinemas

Cinema				
GLORIETTA 1	1 CLOSED	2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED	4 CLOSED
GLORIETTA 4	1 BRIDE WARS	2 THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON	3 YES MAN	
	4 THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES	5 TRANSPORTER 3	6 LOVE ME AGAIN	7 BEDTIME STORIES
GREENBELT 1	1 BRIDE WARS	2 LOVE ME AGAIN		
GREENBELT 3	1 BRIDE WARS	2 YES MAN		
	3 THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES	4 LOVE ME AGAIN	5 THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 YES MAN	2 BRIDE WARS		
	3 LOVE ME AGAIN	4 BEDTIME STORIES	5 THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 LOVE ME AGAIN	2 BEDTIME STORIES	3 THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON	4
MARKET! MARKET!	1 YES MAN	2 LOVE ME AGAIN		
	3 HAUNTING OF MOLLY HARTLEY	4 BRIDE WARS	5 LOVE ME AGAIN	
TRINOMA	1 LOVE ME AGAIN	2 LOVE ME AGAIN	3 BEDTIME STORIES	4 HAUNTING OF MOLLY HARTLEY
	5 BRIDE WARS	6 THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON	7 LOVE ME AGAIN	

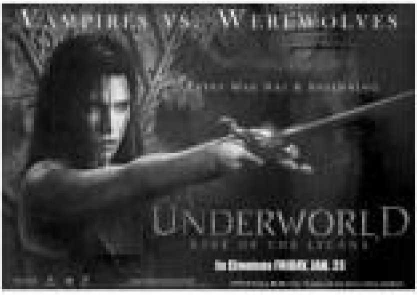
At the Malls

Mall	
Glorietta	Ayala Malls Welcome 2009 Sale! Jan. 2-18 Mallwide
Greenbelt	Ayala Malls Welcome 2009 Sale! Jan. 2-18 Mallwide
Alabang Town Center	Welcome 2009 Sale! Jan. 2-18 Mallwide
Ayala Center Cebu	[illegible]
Market! Market!	Ayala Malls Welcome 2009 Sale! Jan. 2-18 Mallwide
Glorietta	[illegible]
Ayala Museum	[illegible]
Tri Noma	[illegible] Ayala Malls Welcome 2009 Sale! Jan. 2-18 Mallwide





'Dollywood' wins Gawad Tanglaw







Karylle loveless...

18th year

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 BRIDE WARS
2 HILOT
3 YES MAN
4 ABANDONED
5 LOVE ME AGAIN
6 THE CURIOUS CASE of BENJAMIN BUTTON
7 BEDTIME STORIES
8 nobelline: THE THANK YOU GIRLS
9 TRANSPORTER 3
10 THE HAUNTING of MOLLY HARTLEY

ERMITA

1 ABANDONED
2 YES MAN
3 HILOT
4 LOVE ME AGAIN
5 THE CURIOUS CASE of BENJAMIN BUTTON
6 BEDTIME STORIES
7 TRANSPORTER 3
8 BRIDE WARS
9 THE HAUNTING OF MOLLY HARTLEY

METRO EAST

1 THE HAUNTING OF MOLLY HARTLEY
2 YES MAN
3 ABANDONED
4 LOVE ME AGAIN
5 TRANSPORTER 3
6 BEDTIME STORIES
7 BRIDE WARS
8 THE CURIOUS CASE of BENJAMIN BUTTON

NOVALICHES

1 LOVE ME AGAIN
2 BEDTIME STORIES
3 YES MAN
4 HILOT

PIONEER

1 BRIDE WARS
2 YES MAN
3 ABANDONED
4 LOVE ME AGAIN



STA. ROSA

1 MUTANT CHRONICLES
2 LOVE ME AGAIN
3 PASSENGERS
4 PRIDE AND GLORY

LIPA

1 SEX DRIVE
2 LOVE ME AGAIN
3 TRANSPORTER 3
4 MONSTER SLAYER

DASMARIÑAS

1 BEDTIME STORIES
2 LOVE ME AGAIN
3 YES MAN
4 TRANSPORTER 3

IMUS

1 TRANSPORTER 3
2 YES MAN
3 LOVE ME AGAIN
4 BRIDE WARS

ANGELES

1 THE CURIOUS CASE of BENJAMIN BUTTON
2 LOVE ME AGAIN
3 PRIDE AND GLORY
4 BEDTIME STORIES

STARMILLS

1 THE CURIOUS CASE of BENJAMIN BUTTON
2 LOVE ME AGAIN
3 FOUR CHRISTMASES
4 BEDTIME STORIES
5 AND TANGING NA NYONG LAHAT
6 PRIDE AND GLORY

BACOLOD

1 LOVE ME AGAIN
2 BEDTIME STORIES
3 AND TANGING NA NYONG LAHAT
4 HILOT
5 DUMPLINGS
6 TRANSPORTER 3

ILOILO

1 LOVE ME AGAIN
2 HILOT
3 FOUR CHRISTMASES
4 PASSENGERS
5 BEDTIME STORIES
6 AND TANGING NA NYONG LAHAT



Karylle loveless on Valentine's Day



A SNAPSHOT in Sagada from Yasmien Kurdi's personal album.

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

First birthday

Mountain adventure

Guess who

Yasmien reports on mountain adventure ... and her rumored suitor

Scoring high

Star documentaries rise in Sundance

Common desire



BEN Affleck, executive producer of "Reporter"

Biggest success

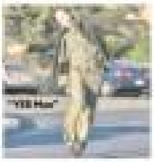
No less serious

Opening This Week



"The 'Thank You' Girls"

The 'Thank You' Girls



"YES Man"

Yes Man

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans

The Secret Life of Bees

The Abandoned



"THE Secret Life of Bees"